



May 25, 2010

Michigan House of Representatives  
Transportation Committee  
c/o Committee Clerk Office  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 North Capitol, 3-South  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Transportation Committee,

The Green Grand Rapids Coalition – an alliance of advocates who support, among other things, expanding mobility choices – supports modern policy and investment practices to build superior streets. We write to ask that you support strong Michigan Complete Streets legislation. The proposal, with minor improvements, will boost economic competitiveness, protect the environment and enhance quality life in communities across the state.

House Bills 6151 and 6152 aim to encourage communities and road agencies to consider more innovative street designs. The idea is to ensure that transportation planners and engineers consistently build and operate road corridors that enable people, goods and services to travel safely and efficiently in a variety of ways, including by car, bike, bus or train and foot. This will ensure roads become thriving transportation corridors that meet everybody's needs. The anticipated outcomes of strong Complete Streets legislation include:

- Increased economic growth, including higher property values and business activity in Complete Street corridors.
- Improved environmental outcomes, including cleaner air and water quality from reduced vehicles emissions.
- Enhanced public health as more people incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.
- Greater social equity, as Complete Streets guarantee more access and mobility choices for people from all walks of life, regardless of age or ability.

We understand that as we write, important revisions are currently underway to perfect the bill before it is introduced to the House Transportation Committee. We hope the revised bill will include the following revisions: HB 6152, as written, calls for including several requirements into community master plans. These requirements suggest that capacity, access management, congestion and level of service should drive decision-making instead of insuring that a variety of transportation modes are implemented on all streets. We in Grand Rapids interpret these regulations, as currently outlined, to be detrimental to the goal of Complete Streets; and may in fact impair efforts to improve non-motorized transportation modes.

**Based on our policy and design development experience, we believe the key to a successful Complete Streets policy is the creation of a non-motorized transportation plan that guides decision-making and sets clear investment priorities.** We encourage lawmakers to consider making such a plan a requirement for transportation grant funding, similar to the need for a parks and recreation master plan to secure MDNR Trust Fund grants.

Supporting Complete Streets is an investment in a stronger and healthier Michigan. Our Green Grand Rapids Coalition urges you to vote in favor of meaningful Complete Streets policy. We are convinced the long-term result will be a more vibrant and prosperous Michigan.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hood, executive director  
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Andy Guy, president  
Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Suzanne Schulz, director  
City of Grand Rapids Planning Department

Kevin McCurren, chair  
Greater Grand Rapids Bicycle Coalition

Elissa Sangalli Hillary, executive director  
Local First

Annoesjka Steinman, executive director  
Blandford Nature Center

Christopher Reader, chair  
Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Dotti Clune, chair  
Grand Rapids Urban Forestry Committee

Joshua Duggan, safety and advocacy chair  
Rapid Wheelmen Bicycle Club

Rob McCarty, project manager  
Gateways Group

Nate Phelps, president  
Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Jason Dew, president  
Western Chapter of Michigan Mountain Biking Association